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(54) **SKIN COLOR PRIORITIZED AUTOMATIC FOCUS CONTROL VIA SENSOR-DEPENDENT SKIN COLOR DETECTION**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The disclosure is directed to techniques for automatic focus control. The automatic focus control techniques prioritize focus of a camera based on skin tone using a skin color detection approach which is intrinsically image sensor-dependent. Sensor-dependent skin color detection to support automatic skin tone prioritized focus control in a camera can enhance the focus of people in the scene. The techniques may be especially useful in digital video camera design, digital still photo camera design, and sensor applications involving people tracking. Sensor-dependent skin color detection is performed once a specific sensor is characterized by taking several raw images of a standard color test target in controlled illumination conditions. Sensor-dependent skin color detection can provide high detection precision and reliability. With sensor-dependent skin color detection, the focus of a camera can be automatically adjusted to prioritize regions of an image containing skin tones.

51 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets
(4 of 13 Drawing Sheet(s) Filed in Color)